



SML Sedimentation Task Force
Monday, October 28, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Barb Ferrell	Dave Johnson
Roger Fritz	Chekka Lash
Randy Hodges	Rob Sanders
Neil Holthouser	

Members Absent:

David Byrd	Dave Johnson
Keri Green	Bob Pohlada
Tom Hardy	Jennifer Serafin
Daphne Jamison	Robert Weld

Staff Present:

Kristina Sage	Lorie Smith
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Guests Present:

Jennifer Chen	Don Shearer
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The meeting was adjourned by Barb Ferrell at 3:10PM beginning with all members and guests introducing themselves.

Randy Hodges made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes, Dave Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Initial discussion gathered feedback and impressions of Anchor QEA Reservoir Sustainability presentation which occurred at the September 23 meeting. All agreed that the presentation had been well researched to address SML issues. Barb Ferrell's brief overview noted 2 challenges – watershed management and sediment removal and placement. Neil Holthouser reminded the task force that some of the techniques presented are not locally available. Randy Hodges agreed noting past and current dredging projects at SML have been "spot dredging" rather than long-term extensive projects. Lorie Smith suggested the task force request sedimentation documents from AEP to better understand what

work has been done and what methodologies are available locally. Neil Holthouser advised he would research available information and provide it at the next meeting. The most recent AEP project, the Hardy Ford bridge dredging, utilized local contractors.

Neil reminded the task force that the primary concern for APCO is the impact of storage capacity on power generation. Any loss of capacity, since the lake was filled, has not impacted power generation. He also provided a brief overview of dredging permit requirements. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is the primary permitting authority. The permitting process is 2-tiered. One type of permit is for dredging up to 25 cubic yards. No permit is required from Appalachian Power for dredging of 25 cubic yards or less, however notification to Appalachian is required 10 working days prior to commencement of all minor dredging. Above 25 cubic yards, both an ACOE permit and a permit from Appalachian are required. Additionally, the applicant must submit a Joint Permit Application to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) Virginia Water Protection Permit Program. Also noted was that the proposed dredging near Ponderosa campground, that was applied for but was never executed, was reviewed by the county and those records will be helpful to understand the process.

Randy Hodges asked for more information about available maps. Dave Johnson mentioned the 2006-2007 APCO sedimentation management study includes maps. Neil advised that APCO does have bathymetry and maps with 2' contour lines, and he offered to confirm and provide any that are available. K. Sage offered one map from the APCO 2021 Monitoring Plan as an example of available data. Neil noted that any maps referenced for permitting should be current and the monitoring plan is not the entire lake; rather it focuses upon excerpted areas of concern. Rob Sanders noted that the maps include data from historical reports for inflow creeks and public access areas. (A list of the mapped areas was distributed to attendees at the beginning of the meeting. See last page of these minutes.) Neil offered that if the task force provides list of ½ dozen areas where historical data is wanted, he will do his best to provide it.

Discussion ensued with Rob Sanders providing an overview of the 5-year AEP Sedimentation Monitoring Plan report which includes a baseline from 2005. Neil and Rob agreed to work together to develop a presentation to "teach" the committee how to understand the report. Lorie Smith endorsed the strategy. Rob suggested that the raw data from which the maps and graphs were generated would be beneficial because graphs do not depict the change as well as the raw data would. Neil will research the availability of raw data. Roger Fritze proposed that maps with original shoreline would also be helpful to understand impacts of sediment and areas of concern.

Lorie Smith advised the group that the Franklin County Director of GIS was on medical leave and the map is not yet completed. Lorie will continue to pursue a map including topography, hydrology, and sedimentation overlays of SML. Lorie asked for differentiation btw GIS map and APCO map in Neil's

perception. Neil stated that APCO maps will include underwater contours, and well-defined definition between 795' and 800' contour vs. sedimentation filled areas.

Randy Hodges mentioned the recent Princeton Hydro report funded by SMLA will be helpful to understand the watershed and contributors to nutrients and sedimentation in the lake. Rob Sanders announced that the report will be presented by Princeton Hydro at the November 12th, Smith Mountain Lake Association membership meeting at Trinity Ecumenical Parish – doors open at 5:30PM. He also mentioned that county regulations for disposal requirements need to be researched because they may be an impediment to dredging and dredging businesses when disposition of material is in question.

Dave Johnson reminded the group that the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District may have monies to help mitigate sedimentation in the watershed. Regarding mitigation and removal methodologies, Neil reminded the group that any permanent structure within the 800' project boundary on Smith Mountain Lake, such as a coffer dam or other device, must be licensed by the FERC.

Randy Hodges offered that we need an educated guesstimate of the cubic yards of material that will need to be moved or removed to determine how to move forward. Need to identify the build the capacity for economy of scale. Then we will understand financial requirements. Randy Hodges reminded the group that different types of materials that may be disturbed or moved and whatever is contained in the material may determine how to mitigate the deposits. Randy also confirmed that Lorie Smith will investigate dredging regulations and material disposition with her public works director.

Lorie Smith noted that once the task force completes information gathering and talks to consultants to confirm methodologies and costs for each methodology, we should better be able to identify potential costs. Lorie further explained that she envisions the task force developing a comprehensive library of data to reference and study. K. Sage agreed to establish a site with files for Sedimentation documents to be available to the task force.

Barb mentioned that Daphne Jamison offered to bring BR Soil and Water Conservation (BRSWC) people to present to the task force. Lorie reminded the group that BRSWC may have money for funding.

The group confirmed the next meeting will be November 25th 3PM.

Chekka Lash made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Dave Johnson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Appalachian Power Co.

2021 Five-Year Sedimentation Survey Report

October 31, 2023

Sites Mapped:

1. Anthony Ford Boat Launch
2. Beaver Dam Creek
3. Becky's Creek
4. Bett's Creek
5. Big Indian Creek
6. Blackwater River (headwaters)
7. Craddock Creek
8. Gills Creek
9. Grimes Creek
10. Hales Ford Boat Launch
11. Hardy Ford Boat Launch
12. Leesville Dam Boat Luanch
13. Little Indian Creek
14. Lynville Creek
15. Mariners Landing
16. Mitchell's Cove
17. Myers Creek Boat Launch
18. Old Woman's Creek
19. Penhook Boat Launch
20. Pigg River
21. Roanoke River (headwaters)
22. Scruggs Boat Launch
23. Standiford Creek
24. State Park Boat Launch